

WE CLAIM:

1. A telecommunication device comprising:

detection means for detecting an existence of continuity in a network path between at least two nodes of a network whereby addressable codes activate at least one switch connecting said at least two nodes to produce one of a loop-up state and a loop-down state.

2. A telecommunication device in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said at least one switch is in a closed position during said loop-up state and in an open position during said loop-down state.

3. A telecommunication device in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said detector means comprises a timing circuit adapted to control a time period for at least one of said loop-up state and said loop-down state assigned to said at least one switch.

4. A telecommunication device in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said detector means comprises indicator means for determining a status of said device.

5. A telecommunication device in accordance with Claim 4, wherein said indicator means indicate at least one of said loop-up state, said loop-down state and a malfunction state.

6. A telecommunication device in accordance with Claim 5, wherein said indicator means comprises a plurality of light indicators, each of said light indicators corresponding to one of said loop-up state, said loop-down state and said malfunction state.

7. A telecommunication device in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising means for receiving said addressable codes by wireless means.

8. A telecommunication device in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said detection means comprises a delay storage circuit.

9. In a telecommunication network comprising at least two nodes and at least one detection means for detecting an existence of continuity in a network path joining said at least two nodes, said detection means comprising at least one normally open switch connecting said at least two nodes, a method for determining the continuity of said network path comprising the steps of:

    sending an addressable code to said detection means, resulting in said at least one normally open switch closing and generation of a loop-up state; and

    transmitting an addressable loop-up acknowledgment code with said detection means to one of said two nodes, resulting in a determination of the continuity of the network path between said detection means and said one of said two nodes.

10. A method in accordance with Claim 9, wherein said closed normally open switch is opened, resulting in a loop-down state.

11. A method in accordance with Claim 9, wherein said loop-up state results in one of a turning on and turning off of an appliance connected to said network.

12. A method in accordance with Claim 9, wherein said addressable code is transmitted to said detection means by wireless means.

13. A method in accordance with Claim 9, wherein said addressable code is transmitted by wired means.

14. A method in accordance with Claim 9, wherein said loop-up state is terminated by a timing circuit.

15. A telecommunications network comprising:  
at least two nodes;  
a network path connected to each of said at least two nodes and providing a communication there between; and  
detector means comprising at least one normally open switch and at least one addressable code whereby, upon transmission of said addressable code to said detection means, said at least one normally open switch closes, creating a loop-up state, said at least one normally open switch connecting said detector means to said network path between said at least two nodes.

16. A telecommunications network in accordance with Claim 15, wherein said detector means comprises a timing circuit, said timing circuit controlling a length of time of said loop-up state.

17. A telecommunications network in accordance with Claim 15, wherein said detector means comprises indicator means for determining a status of said detector means.

18. A telecommunications network in accordance with Claim 17, wherein said indicator means indicate at least one of said loop-up state, a loop-down state and a malfunction state.

19. A telecommunications network in accordance with Claim 17, wherein said indicator means comprises a plurality of light indicators, each of said light indicators corresponding to one of said loop-up state, said loop-down state and said malfunction state.

20. A telecommunications network in accordance with Claim 15, wherein said detector means comprises means for receiving said addressable codes by wireless means.

21. A telecommunications network in accordance with Claim 15, wherein said detector means comprises a delay storage circuit.

22. A telecommunications network in accordance with Claim 15,  
wherein said detector means comprises a microprocessor and software.

FIG. 10